Removing faults of Telephones

3041. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had assured attendance of telephone complaints within two days and transfer of telephones from old to new residence within 15 days;

(b) whether the unattended complaints of telephones are published in newspapers;

(c) if so, the action taken to remove such faults till date;

(d) whether in spite of lapse of three months, many telephones have not been shifted to their new residence; and

(e) if so, action taken against MTNL and by when the telephones are likely to betransferred?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. A fixed target of 48 hours has been fixed for attending of telephone complaints and 15 days for shifting of telephones from old residence to new residence.

(b) There is no system to publish unattended complaints in newspapers.

(c) Special monitoring is done for such cases and these faults are cleared promptly.

(d) Shifting of telephones is carried out within the Specified norms subject to technical feasibility. In same cases, due to technical non feasibility, the Shifts are delayed beyond the norms

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Setting up a Ministry for Speedy Development of North Eastern Region

3042. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a 'proposal to set up a Ministry/Department to ensure speedy development of North-East Region/Assam on the pattern of J&K Affairs Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The development of the North-Eastern region has been receiving constant attention of the Government. The North-Eastern Council, which was established by an Act of Parliament, is an important instrument of planning and for securing the balanced development of the North-Eastern region. Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States are the members of the Council.

साहिबगंज टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज में एस.टी.डी. चैनलों की संख्या में वृद्धि

3043. **श्री ज्ञान रंजन:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि साहिबगंज मुख्य एक्सचेंज से दस ग्रामीण एक्सचेंज जुड़े हुए हैं जिसके अंतर्गत करीब 1700 टेलीफोन कार्यरत हैं परन्तु उनमें एस.टी.डी. चैनल की सुविधा मात्र 8+8 है;

(ख) क्या सरकार एस टी डी चैनलों की संख्या बढ़ाकर 30+30 करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह काम कब तक पूरा कर लिये जाने की संभावना है?

श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा (संचार मंत्री): (क) जी हां। साहिबगंज टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज से 10 टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज जुड़े हुए हैं। 121 टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए 8+8 एस टी डी चैनल प्रदान किए गए हैं।

(ख) जी हां।

(ग) इस कार्य को 1997-98 तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है।

Flood on River Ravi

3044. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Miniser of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that river Ravi which flows along the border of India and Pakistan causes more havoc in India by flooding agricultural crops and habitation than in Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan with the help of embankments and spurs, changes the flow of the river towards India, which is the main reason of the deluge;

(c) if so, the reasons for India's embankments/spur becoming unsuccessful in stemming the tide of the river towards Pakistan; and

(d) the steps to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) River Ravi flows almost all along Indo-Pak Border before entering Pakistan. Floods in the river Ravi cause servere damages to flood protection/river training works and culturable land in India.

(b) The Pakistan has, over the years, constructed flood embankments and spurs on its side of the river. These works under certain hydraulic and morphological conditions divert the flow of the river towards the other bank in the Indian Territory.

(c) and (d) The State of Punjab has been constructing counter protective works to keep the river away from the Indian border according to their recommendations of the Committee on special remedial works for flood protection of embankments on rivers Ravi and Sutlej. About Rs. 1.5 crores is earmarked every year as Central Loan Assistance to State of Punjab for construction of these counter protective works on river Ravi and Sutlej. As this amount is not sufficient the State undertakes balance works depending upon the priority and resources available with them. Efforts are being made to provide more funds to expedite the works.

Farming by Indians in other countries

3045. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the possibility of Indian farmers especially the farmers of Punjab with their advanced technological know-how making inroads into the farming sector of other countries like Argentina and other South American countries for increased agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, efforts Government propose to make in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government would assist and facilitate those Indian farmers who wish to establish a presence in the farming sector of countries in South America as also in the transfer of technology.

Action on report of the Vohra Committee

3046. SHRI M.A. BABY:
SHRI CHIANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to present the relevant facts and materials which formed the basis of the Report of the Vohra Committee to Parliament;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant facts and materials which formed the basis of the Vohra Committee;

(c) whether any steps are being contemplated to set up a statutory authority with adequate powers to go into the above facts and circumstances and to make suitable recommendations to identify and punish the guilty with a view to eliminate the role of the 'Parallel Government' as promised in the CMP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Vohra Committee Report is complete in itself. There are no other specific facts and materials which formed the basis of the Report.

(c) and (d) The issue of collection and disclosure of facts relating to Criminal-Bureaucrat-Politician nexus, and the question of setting up of a statutory authority with adequate powers to go into the facts and circumstances and to make suitable recommendations is engaging the attention of the Government.